A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, October 23. 1711.

WHETHER I speak of Whig or Tory, I think it is now the most difficult Thing in the World to find out a Man of steady, unbyass'd, and disinterested Principles of any Side: Men are govern'd by Persons, and not by Things, by Parties and not by Prospects, however Essential; and it is almost impossible to find a Man, either Whig or Tory, that is of the same Sentiments now, that he was Ten or Twenty Years ago.

I am no Man of Circumlocutions, but love to come directly to the Point; the Observation I have made here, respects our Notions of Peace and War, *Partition* and no *Partition*; our Opinions of Power, and the Ballance of Power in the World.

I could Reproach you on both Sides with this changing your Note several Ways, since the Revolution; but I have nam'd it now, purely on Account of the View before us, of a Partition of the *Spanish* Monarchy: Before I begin, give me leave, with regard to the Misconstruction the People of this Age are apt to put upon the cleareſt Thoughts and plaineſt Expreſſions, to explain myself, as to the publick Managers of the World, to whom some People may think this Paper refers.

1st.

1st. *I firmly believe*, That whether you will Treat of Peace now, or carry on the War; Whether you shall make the Peace, or your Carkaffes falling in the Wilderness of the War, the Conclusion shall be left to your wiser Posterity; yet that you will never be able to bring it to a Conclusion upon any other Foundation than that of a PARTITION, I say only that I believe so, let the Event make out the Thing.

2dly. *I believe*, That Providence, in Justice to *what's past*, and in Mercy to *what is to come* in *Europe*, will not permit any other End of this War to be ever made in the World, but that of a PARTITION.

3dly. *I believe*, That if you were to push the War on, to the Destruction of the King of *France*, and the Extirpation, as well as Deposing the present King *Philip* V. and his Children; yet that when the Confederates had the Monarchy of *Spain* in absolute Possession, they would not give it whole to any Prince in the World, but effectually make a PARTITION.

4. *And yet I believe*, and am perswaded, as far as I can learn from Fact, or see from Consequence, *speaking without Doors*, that there is not yet one Word spoke, Question ask'd, Proposal made, or Scheme laid, between Us and *France*, whether on one side or other, towards *how*, *which Way*, or *to whom*, any Parts of the said *Spanish* Dominions shall be divided, or whether there shall be any *Partition* or no; but that *all the Partitions* publickly talk'd of, Printed, and laid down, serve as so many Testimonies to the Authors, that they know nothing of the Matter.

5thly. *I premise*, and desire to be understood to do so, that in what I am going to say, I reflect on the private Opinion only of our People in General, not upon the Parliamentary Proceedings, or Political Steps of Government, on the former Disputes about the said Treaty of *Partition*.

Having thus explain'd myself, to prevent Misunderstandings,

I say with Freedom, That the Popular Opinion, whether of Whig or Tory, has been several Times turn'd with a Stream (or Torrent rather) for and against the *Partition* of the *Spanish* Monarchy, in an unaccountable manner, to the Scandal of our Judgment, and more of our Sincerity; demonstrating to the World what an unsteady People we are, and that there are Time-servers of all Parties among us, and I fear will ever be so; and since I bring both Parties in, I hope neither can think me partial.

Let those *High-Gentlemen*, who once Damn'd not the Treaty of *Partition* only, but the Authors of it, and perhaps *the one* for *the other*; who call'd it Unjust, Destructive to Trade, a Plot upon the *English* Nation, and at last FELONIOUS; let them wait a little Time, and they shall discover that they were wrong, and that they will acknowledge, no Peace can be made without it—— As to the Usage the Makers of that Treaty met with from them, I wave it for the present.

Let those *Low-Gentlemen*, who fell in, tho' not with the ill Treatment of the Person of the King, who made that Treaty, yet with the general Censure of the Method, and who believing they could get it all, (*I mean the* Spanish *Monarchy*) were willing to part with none of it, and resolv'd to make that an Essential Article of Peace; let them look up, and see how justly Heaven has brought them to make *Honourable Amends*, to the Memory of King *William*, by recognizing the Necessity of a PARTITION *Treaty*.

For my part, I look back with inexpressible Satisfaction on this in myself, that having from the beginning, seen with the Eyes of his late Majesty in this Affair, (*a happy Illumination*) I always saw the Blessing of that Design, and ever have been, and still am of the Opinion, this War can have no other End.

Nor

Nor am I better pleas'd, than when I hear ſome People, who think themſelves mighty wiſe, tell me *I am turn'd about* in this; I never expect, but that according to *Rocheſter*, the *Turn-Rounds* will all agree to call me *Turn-Round*.

If with known Cheats you'll play upon the Square,
You'll be undone; ——
Nor will weak Truth your Reputation ſave,
The Knaves will all agree to call you Knave.
Rocheſter's *Satyr againſt Man.*

But I'll put the Caſe freely and plainly Home, to the Teeth of all thoſe who are now for giving the whole *Spaniſh* Monarchy to the preſent *Charles* VI. to whom the Empire is Revolv'd, and I'll oblige them to come to the Teſt with King *William*'s Judgment, where they ſhall acknowledge their Politicks Wrong, or prove that his was ſo; that is, it ſhall appear, that either they are now Fools, or that they think King *William* was then a Fool.

And firſt, let the Treaty of *Partition* itſelf be brought as the Standard, and there it will appear, that King *William* was careful of, did foreſee, and provide againſt this very Accident, and in the very manner that I ſpeak it; and now it ſhall ſoon appear, whether the *Review*, or theſe honeſt Men *WHIGS*, that are for giving the *Spaniſh* Monarchy to the Emperor, are Weathercocks, Turn-Coats, and the like, as they are pleas'd to call it (for I give you Gentlemen, your own ſweet Language,) *and indeed it ſhall appear to be* YOUR OWN, *and moſt Righteouſly to belong to you.*

I believe you have moſt of you forgot *the Treaty of Partition*, at leaſt this part of it; wherefore I would have my Reproaching Friends, whoſe Conſciences tell them I am ſpeaking to them, *from a very late Occaſion*, who cry up their own Politicks in Publick, and therefore deſerve this publick hint; I ſay, I would have them read the IX Article of the Second Treaty of Partition, which is expreſly to the Caſe, *thus.*

If the moſt Serene Arch-Duke ſhould die without Iſſue, either before or after the Death of the Catholick King, the Share which is hereby aſſigned to him, ſhall come to ſuch Male Child of the Emperor, or of the King of the Romans, *Except* the King of the Romans, *MARK THAT*, as his Imperial Majeſty ſhall aſſign it to; but on Condition that the ſaid Part ſhall never be United, nor belong to the Perſon of him, who ſhall be Emperor, or King of the Romans, or is become one or the other, be it by Succeſſion, Will, Contract of Marriage, Donation, Exchange, Ceſſion, Appeal, Revolt, or otherwiſe; as in like manner, the ſaid Share of the Serene Arch-Duke ſhall never come, or belong to the Perſon of a Prince, that is or ſhall be King, or Dauphine of *FRANCE.*

How now ſhall a Man reſtrain himſelf from Summoning you all that call your ſelves Men of Brains and Politicks, to ſet your ſelves againſt the Wiſdom of this Prince? Either King *William* was a FOOL, *a kind of Humane Blaſphemy to ſay*, or you are all FOOLS. Either he that was then of that Mind, has been ever ſince, and is ſtill, is a Turn-Coat, or you are Turn-Coats, Party-Weathercocks, and Pawn your Reaſon to your Paſſion.

The Man is Mad, *ſays one that reads this*, he is calling the Queen, the late Parliament, the late Miniſtry, and all his Friends, Fools now; who Addreſs'd, Anſwer'd, Voted, and all Agreed, that *no Peace could be Safe and Honourable, unleſs the whole* Spaniſh *Monarchy was reduc'd to the Obedience of King* Charles III

I mention this, becauſe really ſome are ſo weak to ſtart it—But let them be anſwer'd their Queſtion by a Queſtion, however immethodical that is —— *Ye blind and fooliſh Generation!* Was the Emperor Dead? Was King *Charles* III. of *Spain* become *Charles* VI. Emperor of *Germany*? And would the Parliament have Addreſs'd, or the Queen

Anſwer'd,

Anſwer'd, or the wiſe and honeſt Men ye call my Friends, have agreed to it at that Time, if theſe Things had hapened *then*? Would the Houſes have join'd in it as their Opinion, That no Peace could have been Safe and Honourable, till the whole *Spaniſh* Monarchy was put into the Hands of the Emperor of *Germany*? No, no; They would ſooner have Voted a Partition, and I doubt not but they will do ſo ſtill—— And let Time diſcover who were the Fools, King *William*, or the Weathercocks of this Generation.

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